UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.105/PV.378
9 July 1992

ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 378th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 26 June 1992, at 12.30 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. HOHENFELLNER (Austria)

- Report of the Committee to the General Assembly
- Concluding statements
- Closing statement by the Chairman
- Closure of the session

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages, preferably in the same language as the text to which they refer. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also, if possible, incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent, within one week of the date of this document, to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Office of Conference Services, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza.

Any corrections to the records of this meeting and of other meetings will be issued in a corrigendum.

92-60863 9138V (E)

The meeting was called to order at 12.30 p.m.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The CHAIRMAN: I call upon the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. JASENTULIYANA (Secretary of the Committee): As members know, the Committee will be working today with the draft report discussed during its informal meetings and with amendments as taken down by delegations. But as we had some time yesterday afternoon, we have been able to compile an informal list setting out amendments to the draft report; this is contained in two informal documents, in English only, circulated solely for the convenience of delegations. Formally, the Committee will be considering the draft report as contained in documents A/AC.105/L.196 and Add.1 to 3.

The CHAIRMAN: Members have before them the draft report of the Committee to the General Assembly, contained in documents A/AC.105/L.196 and Add.1 to 3. We shall now proceed to adopt that report, section by section.

We begin with document A/AC.105/L.196.

We turn first to the Introduction, paragraphs 1 to 17. May I take it that the Committee wishes to adopt those paragraphs?

Paragraphs 1 to 17 were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up paragraphs 18 to 23. Does the Committee wish to adopt those paragraphs?

Paragraphs 18 to 23 were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee has thus adopted the portion of its report contained in document A/AC.105/L.196.

We turn now to document A/AC.105/L.196/Add.1, dealing with the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. Does the Committee wish to adopt paragraph 1 of that document?

Paragraph 1 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: May I take it that the Committee wishes to adopt paragraphs 2 to 10?

Paragraphs 2 to 10 were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We turn now to paragraph 11. I take it that the Committee adopts that paragraph.

Paragraph 11 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: Turning to paragraphs 12 to 14, may I take it that the Committee wishes to adopt those paragraphs?

Paragraphs 12 to 14 were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up paragraphs 15 to 19. Does the Committee wish to adopt those paragraphs?

Paragraphs 15 to 19 were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We turn now to paragraphs 20 to 27. I take it that the Committee adopts those paragraphs.

Paragraphs 20 to 27 were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: Turning to paragraphs 28 to 35, may I take it that the Committee wishes to adopt those paragraphs?

Paragraphs 28 to 35 were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up paragraphs 36 to 40 bis, which will be renumbered in the final report. Does the Committee wish to adopt those paragraphs?

Paragraphs 36 to 40 bis were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We turn now to paragraphs 41 to 50. I take it that the Committee adopts those paragraphs.

Paragraphs 41 to 50 were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: Turning to paragraphs 51 to 56, may I take it that the Committee wishes to adopt those paragraphs?

Paragraphs 51 to 56 were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up paragraphs 57 to 67 ter; paragraphs 67 bis and ter were the subject of tentative agreement yesterday and will be renumbered in the final report. Does the Committee wish to adopt those paragraphs?

Paragraphs 57 to 67 ter were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We turn now to paragraphs 68 to 75. I take it that the Committee adopts those paragraphs.

Paragraphs 68 to 75 were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee has thus adopted the portion of its report contained in document A/AC.105/L.196/Add.1.

We turn now to document A/AC.105/L.196/Add.2.

(The Chairman)

I wish first to read out the text of a new paragraph 6 bis. That paragraph reads as follows:

"The Committee was able to reach consensus on the basis of the Chairman's text. The consensus text, as approved by the Committee, is attached as annex ___ to this report".

The annex number will be furnished in the final report.

I call on the representative of the United States.

Mr. BRAIBANTI (United States of America): Mr. Chairman, with your permission, I would like to make some comments at this point regarding the principles on nuclear-power sources.

We appreciate the efforts of the Committee on this complex technical subject, and in particular the effort to deal with United States concerns with respect to technical validity. We believe these efforts have led to much common ground.

As members of the Committee know, on several particular points it remains our view that the draft does not yet provide the clarity and technical validity necessary as a basis for decision-making in this area. The United States has an approach on these particular points that it considers to be technically clearer and more valid, and has a demonstrated history of safe and successful application of nuclear power in space. We will continue to apply that approach.

We call the Committee's attention to Principle 11, which calls for review and revision within two years, and we note that this will be necessary.

In view of the points I have just made, in view of the non-binding nature of these principles and in view of the importance of continued Committee operation in a consensus mode, the United States does not object to the proposed action on the principles on nuclear-power sources.

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to ask at this stage that other Committee members wishing to make statements on this matter wait until after we have concluded consideration of this subject.

I now return to paragraph 6 bis. Does the Committee wish to adopt this paragraph?

Paragraph 6 bis was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up document A/AC.105/L.192/Add.2, as a whole, paragraphs 1 to 26. Does the Committee wish to adopt paragraphs 1 to 26?

Paragraphs 1 to 26 were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee has thus adopted the portion of its report contained in document A/AC.105/L.196/Add.2. We now turn to document A/AC.105/L.196/Add.3. Let us first take up Section D, paragraphs 1 to 7. Does the Committee wish to adopt Section D?

Section D was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now consider Section E, paragraphs 8 and 9. Does the Committee wish to adopt Section E?

Section E was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: Next, we shall consider Section F, entitled "Future Work".

I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. JASENTULIYANA (Secretary of the Committee): I should like to draw the attention of the Committee to paragraph 13, the recommendation that the Legal Subcommittee rotate the order of consideration of its substantive items every year. Since this recommendation was made, we have come full circle in rotating the items; a new cycle will therefore begin in 1993, and the first agenda item to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee in 1993 will be nuclear-power sources. The second item will be the delimitation of outer space, and the third will be benefits derived from outer space. In paragraph 12, therefore, paragraph C will become paragraph A, paragraph A will become paragraph B, and paragraph B will become paragraph C. The 1993 Legal Subcommittee agenda will be prepared in that order.

The CHAIRMAN: Does the Committee wish to adopt that Section?

Section F was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now consider Section G. Does the Committee wish to adopt that Section?

Section G was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: Finally, we turn to Section H. Does the Committee wish to adopt that Section?

Section H was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up, as a whole, the Committee's draft report on its work at the thirty-fifth session. May I take it that the Committee adopts the draft report, as a whole?

The draft report, as a whole, was adopted.

CONCLUDING STATEMENTS

Mr. TETU (Canada) (interpretation from French): My delegation welcomes, with relief and joy, the unanimous agreement of the Committee to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of the principles on nuclear power sources in outer space. We wish in particular to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your tireless efforts in arriving at this felicitous compromise. Thirteen years of hard work by all delegations have made this result possible. We also wish to underscore the cooperation of all delegations, in particular that of the German delegation, which joined my delegation in preparing the many revisions that led to this positive outcome. Of course, some, if not all, States Members of the Committee at times encountered certain problems with some of the provisions contained in this set of principles, and we wish to thank all members for having displayed a spirit of compromise by going along with the text that you, Sir, submitted to us.

Mr. TELLES RIBEIRO (Brazil): Allow me to make some brief final remarks concerning the work of the thirty-fifth session of the Committee, which is about to end. My delegation wishes to express its satisfaction with the results of this session. As the previous speaker pointed out, thanks to the sincere and constructive efforts of all delegations concerned, we were able to finalize the draft set of principles on nuclear power sources (NPS). It will now be incumbent on the General Assembly to take final action on the text contained in our report, and we expect that the set of principles will then be formally enshrined as another substantive contribution by our Committee to the progressive development of international space law.

At this juncture, my delegation would like to place on record its position concerning the draft set of principles on NPS we are sending to the General Assembly.

First, we believe that the text embodies an equal distribution of discontent, reflecting a delicate balance of expectations and frustrations on the part of each and every delegation. No single delegation should be considered the winner or loser in the negotiations but, rather, the international community as a whole should be seen as the beneficiary of the final results.

Secondly, the text represents a global package achievable at this point in time, taking into account all the relevant circumstances and considerations. No single part of it can be considered in isolation without jeopardizing the whole structure thus far so painstakingly negotiated. Any future revision of the text should take into account evolving new realities, and therefore any principle could be re-opened for negotiation in the future.

(Mr. Telles Ribeiro, Brazil)

Thirdly, it is my delegation's understanding that the text essentially reflects the agreement achieved in Geneva at the thirty-first session of the Legal Subcommittee. As the consultations conducted on that occasion as well as the results reflected in the non-papers presented by the Chairman of the Working Group were both in English, it is the position of my delegation that the English text represents the authentic and authoritative reflection of the understandings finally agreed.

(Mr. Telles Ribeiro, Brazil)

Therefore, in any interpretation of the final text, my delegation holds that the source for clarification on any doubt, imprecision, or uncertainty of a substantive nature is contained in the report of the thirty-first session of the Legal Subcommittee.

Finally, my delegation would like to express its sincere appreciation for your untiring dedication, Mr. Chairman, in pursuit of that elusive balance between satisfaction and frustration that made possible a successful conclusion of our work. Of course, I extend all my congratulations to the representatives present here who took part in this magnificent effort.

Mr. HERNANDEZ-BASAVE (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): The Mexican delegation wishes to express its satisfaction at the agreement reached enabling us today to adopt as a package the principles on the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. In spite of its limited scope, the set of principles will serve as a starting-point for the future elaboration of more complete and effective rules in this respect. For Mexico, therefore, the adoption of the principles is a positive step forward and one that will be highly useful, since it affords us an excellent opportunity for this Committee to make its work more productive.

Lastly, we would like to state for the record our thanks to the delegations of Canada and Germany, which for so many years have striven to ensure the international community an instrument allowing the regulation of the use of nuclear power in outer space safely and for peaceful purposes. Similarly, we would like to thank you, Ambassador Hohenfellner, for the intelligent and conciliatory way in which you have guided our work and for the positive efforts you have made to achieve the adoption of these principles. We know that your tireless efforts as Chairman of this Committee will bring the Committee further and ever more productive results in the future.

Mr. HIENSCH (Netherlands): The Netherlands delegation would also like to join in the general expression of satisfaction and joy now that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has reached a consensus on a set of draft principles relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. I would like to thank you, Sir, for the leadership you have demonstrated by presenting us with your Chairman's draft text. We would also like to thank the delegations of Canada and Germany for their great efforts and the substantial work they have done on the principles.

But also, and perhaps in particular, I would like to thank and express our gratitude to those delegations that, despite serious concerns and reservations on the principles, are joining in the consensus today. To those delegations, I can say that the Netherlands delegation will constructively and positively participate in the review and revision process that will be undertaken in this Committee within two years.

The success of this session of the Committee should serve as an important and solid foundation for its future work. In this respect, I would like to express the hope that this Committee and its Subcommittees will take a serious look into their work programmes and work procedures.

Mr. MALLIAS (Greece): I would like to associate myself with previous speakers in praising you, Sir, and the members of the Bureau and the Secretariat for the outstanding way they helped in the work of this session of the Committee - and they did bring about success in its work.

The Greek delegation wishes to express its gratitude to the members of the Committee for their positive reaction to our offer to host a Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for our area, as is reflected in paragraph 15 of the report. Indeed, following the joint British-Austrian

(Mr. Mallias, Greece)

proposal, we feel that this Committee has a tremendous task to accomplish in implementing the relevant recommendations of the Rio Conference.

The Permanent Representative of Greece, in his statement of 17 June, indeed hinted at some of the problems that are very particular to our area. Greece will spare no effort in working closely, bilaterally and with those agencies interested in being involved, and we are hopeful that this project will meet with the interest and response to the concerns not only of the members of the Committee but also of United Nations Members that are not yet members of the Committee.

Mr. FULDA (Germany): The general sentiment of relief, satisfaction and joy prevailing this morning in this Committee is proof of the fact that all delegations are convinced that we have come a long way from the very beginning of the discussion in this Committee to the success we have achieved today. This success would not have been achieved without the efforts you, Sir, deployed a year ago and now again during the two weeks of our session. I would extend our thanks to you personally and of course to your predecessors and colleagues in the Subcommittees who have so strongly contributed to this outcome.

I would take this opportunity to extend our particular personal and very friendly thanks to the Canadian delegation and of course to my friend Richard Têtu. He will soon be leaving New York, and I feel that he is indeed returning home carrying one of the greatest successes of his diplomatic career, and on that I would like to congratulate him personally.

Of course, I do commend the efforts deployed by the United States delegation during the past days. I am convinced that we have achieved a

(Mr. Fulda, Germany)

result that is in our common interest. We do share the view expressed by the American delegation that the text we have adopted now is not a binding one. But it is a common point of reference. I stress again that we are prepared to discuss all alternative proposals in the Working Groups of the Subcommittees and here in the Committee. But we should not underestimate the importance of the text that is on the table now.

(Mr. Fulda, Germany)

All alternatives must be checked against the text we have approved today. Therefore, this is a day of success not only for the Committee, which has proved its capacity to work constructively and the validity of the principle of consensus, but for the United Nations in general.

This is the greatest day in the Committee's work for a decade.

Mr. BOYER (France)(interpretation from French): The coat of arms of the school of political science that I attended in Paris bears the image of the lion and the fox, symbolizing courage and prudence. I wish that I had it here to give you, Mr. Chairman, this symbol so dear to generations of students, because you had the courage to propose every possible compromise and the prudence not to propose impossible compromises. And you won. We are all very happy about that.

I should like first to thank the delegation of the United States, because we needed the consensus and we know that it was difficult. The French delegation is particularly grateful to the American delegation for all the work it did to explain to its Government the importance of what was at stake and the importance of our Committee's future work.

I should like secondly to thank the Canadian delegation and personally to thank its Head. We know that Canada had every reason to secure what we attained today. It worked with perseverance and diplomacy, and always with good humour and kindness.

I also thank our neighbour in this Chamber, the German delegation, which worked steadily and dedicatedly with the Canadian delegation.

Finally, I thank the delegation of Brazil, with which we had many discussions, now satisfactorily ended. Here I should like to introduce a small clarification, if the Brazilian delegation will permit me. The French delegation has joined the consensus today on the text annexed to the report.

(Mr. Boyer, France)

It has never had the opportunity to give its agreement to the text attached to the report of Ambassador Cede. That is an important distinction.

This is a happy day for the French delegation, especially because the happiness is generally shared.

Mr. NEUHAUS (Australia): I speak at this point in my national capacity as the Australian representative; Australia will later be paying tribute to you, Sir, on behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States.

Australia warmly welcomes today's developments. We share the general joy in the Chamber. The adoption of the principles on nuclear power sources (NPS) has been an Australian objective for many years. We pay tribute to those delegations that have played a key role in the negotiations, and we echo those who have already paid tribute to the delegations of Canada, Germany and the United States for the work they did in their inter-agency consultative process.

We thank all delegations for the spirit of consensus and compromise they have shown. Leadership is often shown best in compromise. What has been proved today is that the Committee's consensus approach has worked.

Above all, we should like to express our thanks to you, Mr. Chairman, for the leadership you have given us. Without the bold steps you have taken and the active work done by you and your delegation, we could not have reached the present point.

We believe that the principles on NPS as adopted enhance safety in outer space and that future generations will thank us for that. At the same time, we recognize the need for continuing review and possible revision, and we support that.

(Mr. Neuhaus, Australia)

We now have a solid basis for future work, not only on NPS, but on the other matters that we need to address in the Committee. We have strengthened the Committee and the multilateral approach to space through the developments today.

There are an increasing number of countries joining the pioneers - the United States and Russia - in outer space. There is the European Space Agency, there is China, and countries like Australia and developing countries are also participating in outer space.

We have from time to time offered classical allusions. We have offered the image of Tantalus seeking his objectives without success. We have talked of Pandora's box of problems. Now let me offer the picture of Mercury flying free in space, making it work for him. May we continue to make space work for the benefit of humanity and in enhancing the environment. We believe that by what we have done today we have taken a great step along that road.

The CHAIRMAN: There is an active and creative competition between the very pertinent pictures painted by the delegations of Brazil and Australia. Both delegations have clearly pointed out with very concrete pictures where we are.

Mr. MAYORSKI (Russian Federation) (interpretation from Russian): We too should like to express our deep satisfaction at the results achieved at this session of the Committee you chair, Sir. We are certain that this joy and satisfaction are shared by our colleagues from the delegations of the countries of Eastern Europe.

We agree with those delegations that have expressed gratitude to the delegations of Canada and Germany for their tireless efforts in moving forward the very idea of drafting legal principles governing the use of nuclear power

(Mr. Mayorski, Russian Federation)

sources (NPS) in outer space. To those two delegations we could rightly add, especially in view of recent events, the delegation of France, because it was also a significant driving force in our common work.

We agree with the delegations that have pointed out that clearly the success which we have achieved today was guaranteed by the work done this year in Geneva, and we ask you, Sir, to convey our deep gratitude to Ambassador Franz Cede, our friend, who did a huge amount of work in Geneva. Clearly, we have every reason to thank his successor, or the temporary Chairman of the Working Group, Ambassador Freudenschuss.

To avoid speaking a second time, I think I should at this stage point out your personal contribution, Mr. Chairman, to the achievement of this happy result. Your outstanding leadership of the Committee at this session did a great deal to help all of us to say that fortunately the Committee is again on the rise and that there is a rebirth of hope for future fruitful work, not only on the question of NPS in outer space but on other questions.

(Mr. Mayorski, Russian Federation)

Thanks to you, Mr. Chairman, and your courage and expertise, the members of the Committee have managed to prove to each other that we are capable of resolving issues, however difficult, by consensus, and we agree with those delegations which welcomed what the delegation of the United States said in this regard.

As this may be the last session in which I participate, I should like to say, Mr. Chairman, that it has been a great pleasure to work with you for all these years and that I am proud of our sincere friendship.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank my very good friend, the Ambassador of the Russian Federation; I do not accept his warning that he might not be present at future meetings of the Committee because this is a concession the Chairman of this Committee cannot make at this stage to the Russian Federation.

I note that you promoted the representative of Austria to the rank of Ambassador as a token of your generosity; there is, to be sure, a man in this room who appreciates that very much, that is, my colleague from Austria, and you can imagine the difficulties I shall have to face on my return to my office after this meeting.

Mr. MAYORSKI (Russian Federation) (interpretation from Russian): The word I said in Russian was poslannik, which can be translated into English as "minister" and not "ambassador". If this means a promotion, I am very glad.

The CHAIRMAN: I think there was some assistance from the interpreter, so the Committee can see just how many friends the Austrian representative has.

Ms. LOSTY (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom shares the very warm sentiments of our colleagues in expressing satisfaction at the final consensus regarding the principles relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space.

We should like to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your untiring efforts and commitment. These were an inspiration to all representatives at a time when, perhaps, our own spirits were flagging.

We also recognize, with gratitude, the patient and ceaseless efforts of our colleagues from Canada and Germany, as well as the efforts of the members of the United States delegation in working towards what was not an easy compromise.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of the United Kingdom for all the help and support she has given us in our work.

Mr. UEKI (Japan): Japan is very pleased to see a consensus achieved on the Chairman's text, and shares the joy in this Committee. Japan wishes to convey its gratitude, particularly to you, Mr. Chairman, for your untiring efforts in producing the text; that text represents the result of long labours and negotiations, and contains a number of concessions and compromises by all sides. Therefore, Japan associates itself with the call expressed by many delegations for the earliest possible conclusion of this issue, and considers that the time is ripe for achieving consensus on the principles for the use of nuclear power sources.

At the same time, Japan considers it essential to achieve a consensus on these principles if they are to be meaningful and adhered to by all States. Therefore, Japan welcomes and appreciates the endorsement by the United States of the Chairman's text; the United States should be commended for the serious efforts it has made in arriving at a text that could be agreed upon.

(Mr. Ueki, Japan)

Japan also appreciates the valuable contributions of many delegations towards making consensus possible.

At this session, we have finally come out of the tunnel on the matter of the principles for the use of nuclear power sources. We certainly will have more work to do on this issue in order to keep up with rapidly advancing technology. The spirit of cooperation exhibited by all delegations should continue in the future work of the Committee and its Subcommittees.

Mr. YIN Yubiao (China) (interpretation from Chinese): First, I should like to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, for successfully conducting this session of the Committee.

With regard to the consensus achieved on the principles relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, the Chinese delegation expresses its satisfaction. In this connection, we also thank you, Sir, for the personal efforts you have made in your capacity as Chairman. Our thanks also go to the Canadian and German delegations, as well as to other delegations which have made untiring efforts over the past years.

We are very happy to see that, in the process of achieving consensus, all delegations have demonstrated a spirit of cooperation and of compromise, and a high sense of responsibility. The set of principles on which we have achieved consensus is not perfect. However, it will be very important to the protection of the Earth's environment.

We are convinced that, under the able guidance of the Chairman, all delegations will, in the same spirit, continue to make fresh progress in the work of this Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the representative of Chile, to speak on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

Mr. GONZALEZ (Chile) (interpretation from Spanish): After some quick informal consultations in my Group, there are two things that I can report: firstly, that I have had the privilege of being named informal - although perhaps a little more than informal - representative of that Group to address the Committee on this occasion; secondly, that, as a result of these consultations, which required no debate of any kind, we all wish to associate ourselves very enthusiastically with the words of praise that have been addressed to the Chairman, the Secretariat and the delegations of Canada and Germany; we also join in commending the efforts of the United States delegation and, indeed, of all those who contributed directly or indirectly to the adoption of a set of principles on the use of nuclear power sources in outer space.

Unfortunately, as representative of a developing country, I cannot give you an award. What we wish is just that our words of praise and satisfaction concerning the issue of nuclear power sources that we have expressed should be duly noted by you, Mr. Chairman, and, we hope, by all delegations, particularly those of Canada and Germany.

(Mr. Gonzalez, Chile)

In addition to the fact that we have passed a milestone by adopting this draft set of principles, there have also been other positive elements at the session. They have gone unmentioned - or have been mentioned only indirectly or tacitly. The most important was the spirit of cooperation that has prevailed, which can influence the discussion of other agenda items.

I would recall in particular the constructive efforts made by the delegation of Colombia with regard to the geostationary orbit, which have created important possibilities for future negotiation on that subject, one that remains fully valid - as does the proposal with regard to definition and delimitation put forward by the delegation of the Russian Federation. In that connection, I would express the hope that we may continue to enjoy the presence here of our friend Ambassador Boris Mayorski.

We also believe that within the Legal Subcommittee there is steady and clear indication of the need to provide a more precise and better defined legal framework for the subject of the spin-off benefits of outer space, and there should be a close linkage of the subject in the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. Furthermore, with regard to our future work, we attached importance to the proposal made today by the delegation of the United Kingdom on a subject we deem very valid and important, namely, that we must continue to work on the important agreements reached at the recent Rio de Janeiro Conference on Environment and Development. The Committee does indeed have an active role to play in that field.

Lastly, on behalf of all my colleagues on the Committee who are members of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States I should like to say how proud we feel of our contribution, together with other Groups, to all the Committee's work, and in particular to that body with which I am more

(Mr. Gonzalez, Chile)

familiar, the Legal Subcommittee. I should like to relate a brief anecdote. At the Legal Subcommittee session at Geneva in 1983 a very early document on nuclear power sources was submitted. That paper was sponsored by the delegation of Argentina and my own. Ecuador, Mexico and all the other members of the Group have also made consistent efforts for international cooperation - the general standard of this Committee - to continue to guide our work.

In closing, let me say that while we attach the utmost importance to the adoption of the set of draft principles relevant to nuclear power sources in outer space, we also believe that the emergent opportunities for the solution of other important problems of great interest to the developing countries are extremely relevant. In this connection we reiterate our commitment to and interest in continuing to work and cooperate to see that future legal instruments may be elaborated on those questions as well.

Mr. RAO (India): Before speaking on behalf of the Group of Asian States, I should like, on behalf of my own delegation, to thank the key players who have made the consensus agreement on the draft principles on nuclear power sources possible, the delegations of Canada, France, Germany, the Russian Federation and the United States of America. In particular, congratulations go to the delegation of the United States, for it has truly demonstrated its commitment to a prompt completion of those draft principles. As that delegation has said, certain improvements remain necessary to enhance the utility of those draft principles, improvements in their scientific and technical underpinnings, and we for our part would assure them that we will work very closely with them in trying to see that those draft principles are improved, especially from the technical point of view.

(Mr. Rao, India)

Special mention should also be made of Brazil, for it was that country's delegation that brought out the fact that the document represents an equal distribution of discontent and that as far as the document is concerned, all have reached the bottom line. I thank that that contribution made a lot of difference in bringing all of us to agree and to compromise on the Chairman's paper. I am sure that any improvement that will be made on the draft principles will be better than the bottom line that the paper represents. Along with other delegations - Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico and so on - we had our own points to make with regard to the draft principles, but in the spirit of compromise and consensus we have now reached a conclusion on the subject of nuclear power sources.

In particular, you, Mr. Chairman, submitted a paper that really played a key role in achieving a consensus. Our colleagues Mr. Richard Têtu of Canada, Mr. Fulda of Germany and Mr. Boyer of France also provided, as it were, parental guidance to many other delegations here in reaching consensus and played a very key role in that regard. On behalf of the Indian delegation, I should like to thank them.

We should also like to thank the Chairmen of the Legal and Scientific and Technical Subcommittees and their Working Groups, for the major role they played in bringing the work on nuclear power sources to an early conclusion, as well as our colleague from Austria. India believes that International Space Year was a major event in space. In particular we consider that the conclusion of agreement on draft principles with regard to nuclear power sources in outer space is a major element of International Space Year and a major event. It restores confidence among all of us that the Committee on the

(Mr. Rao, India)

Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has a true role to play in promoting international cooperation in outer space. It restores our confidence that we can look forward to a greater role by the Committee in promoting international cooperation.

On behalf of Group of Asian States, I should like to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for achieving consensus on the question of nuclear power sources as well as for the great amount of important work that has been done in providing the Committee with a basis for its future work. I cannot now go into details with regard to all of it, but I can tell you that at the present session thoroughly important elements of future work were laid out, and we the Asian countries look forward very keenly to working closely with you and the Committee to further progress in our efforts to make international cooperation in outer space a reality.

Mr. NEUHAUS (Australia): On behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States, over which Australia is privileged to chair this month, I should like to pay a tribute to you, Mr. Chairman. This has indeed been an outstanding result, a tribute to outstanding chairmanship and the major contribution to International Space Year. I should also like to thank the Chief of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, Mr. Jasentuliyana, and all of the Secretariat staff - those who have provided the conference services, the interpreters and the many others who have worked so hard to make this session a success. We thank them for their patience and for their hard work.

Finally, I should like to pay a tribute to all fellow delegations here for their cooperative spirit. This bodes well, not only for the future of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space but for the future of humanity's cooperation in outer space.

Mr. FREUDENSCHUSS (Austria): In view of the lateness of the hour, I am afraid my friends the interpreters will demote me if I prolong this meeting much further. But I just want to add my voice to those who have emphasized the importance of today's agreement, an agreement that would not have been possible without Canada and Germany in the first instance. But in the final analysis it would also not have been possible without the efforts of the members of the United States delegation present here today.

It is also a success for all of us, because we have all shown flexibility and an ability to compromise. That is the kind of spirit that in the past has made significant achievements possible.

I think today's agreement is a long-needed shot in the arm for this Committee that I hope will prove to be a tonic for our work in other areas in the future.

Finally, I should like to thank everyone for the kind words they addressed during the past two weeks to Austrian delegations past and present; I shall not fail to convey them to my colleagues Mr. Cede and Mr. Winkler.

CLOSING STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN: My concluding remarks will be brief, because the hour is sufficiently advanced; I apologize to our colleagues the translators, the interpreters and the verbatim reporters.

I should like to say in conclusion that I very much appreciated the spirit of cooperation that has continued to prevail since our last session, in Graz. I shall not only turn to the subject that dominated today's meeting, but also want to express my deep gratitude to the Latin American delegations and specifically also to the representative of Colombia, for having participated so actively in our work on a subject that is so extremely

(The Chairman)

difficult, that of the geostationary orbit. I think what our colleague from Colombia said to us during all our deliberations was very important.

In that context I should like, of course, to thank all the other Latin American countries, which always try to participate so actively in the Committee's substantial and meaningful discussions.

At this stage I should like to say that our other colleagues from the third world - Africa and Asia - who are so close to my heart in the sense that I have been working with them for such a long time, have shown an enormous spirit of cooperation in this context. I think the discussions concerning all other items, in addition to nuclear power sources, have been important; we should be very sensitive to the voices of our colleagues from the developing countries. The voice of the third world is a voice to which we should listen very carefully.

Equally, I am very grateful to delegations from the Eastern European countries and to new observers, such as the delegation of Kazakhstan, which spoke for the first time in this Committee and told us of important results of cooperation in the field of outer space.

I come now to what so many delegations have called the important issue of nuclear power sources. I want to say, without any exaggeration, that this was certainly a historic moment in the work of the Committee. I am sober-minded enough to say that I am well aware of all the problems and complexities of this issue, but want also to say at this stage that the main thing we achieved today was to preserve the spirit of cooperation. This is an ongoing exercise; we must be aware that the matter of nuclear power sources constitutes an issue

(The Chairman)

that is so directly related to further developments in technology and in the use of outer space techniques that we shall have to remain closely in touch with it for the future. It is, as my colleague from the United Kingdom said on another occasion, a rolling ball.

Nevertheless, I would like to say at this stage that the main thing we have achieved is the enormous sense of responsibility that all delegations have shown. I heard the enormously kind words addressed to the Chairman, but I can say in all modesty that this was the work of you members, not the work of the Chairman. The Chairman is in a certain sense only the summary, the essence of what you are doing. Therefore I should like to express my gratitude to you all. I want to thank you for what you have done, and that includes all delegations.

I should like to say in this context that I specifically appreciated the role played by our colleagues from the United States of America. They had enormously difficult moments in so far as the dilemma posed by the problems that are created clearly placed a very heavy responsibility on that delegation. I want to thank them because I had a sense of the pulse of the opinion-building process and of the kind of cooperation they showed during our session. This shows that the Committee is on the right track.

At this stage I should like very, very cordially to thank our dear colleague from Canada, because he was at the very origin of the matter, his country having beeen a victim of this problem. Together with the delegations of Germany and France, he carried out an enormous task. But I do not want to exclude the many other delegations, specifically from the third world, that took a very active part in these discussions.

(The Chairman)

I should like also specifically to thank my friend Ambassador Boris Mayorski from the Russian Federation, who for years has been witness to the enormous complexity of these problems. The Russian Federation shares technology on nuclear power sources with the United States of America, and I know this process was not easy for its delegation.

I think the spirit of cooperation that has prevailed augurs well for the future of this Committee, and therefore I thank you all.

In that context I should like also to express my deep gratitude to the Secretary of the Committee, Mr. Jasentuliyana, Chief of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, and to all those who work with him. I should like to thank specifically Mr. Abiodun, who has been working under enormous difficulties as far as finances are concerned in the Space Applications Programme. He has shown a high degree of creativity in bringing together some marvelous projects, including in the context of the International Space Year; we must appreciate his work, specifically in this final stage.

Our Vice-Chairman, Ambassador Munteanu, who has had to return to his other tasks in Washington, was very helpful to me.

Last but not least, we have a new Rapporteur, who has taken on an enormous task. In the first stage of his work - I may call it a début - Mr. Fujita has already shown leadership, for I would like to say that the role of Rapporteur in this Committee is a very difficult one. The work demands creativity and an enormous sense of tact and sensitivity vis-à-vis the issues.

(The Chairman)

My thanks go, of course, to the translators, who have carried out an enormous task, and to all the other Secretariat staff members who have provided us, in time, with our documents.

Turning to the verbatim reporters - we know each other very well from other exercises, in the Security Council - I would like to thank them sincerely. This is no empty phrase. I know how much they do for our work and how much they contributed to the achievements of this session.

I think I am coming to the end. I apologize for the delay in our work. I wish you, dear colleagues, a very happy return to your home countries, if you are going back to your capitals. Those who stay with me will continue the work; I am already looking forward eagerly to our next meetings of our subsidiary bodies and our main body, which are so dear to us.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

The CHAIRMAN: I delcare closed the thirty-fifth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

The meeting rose at 1.40 p.m.